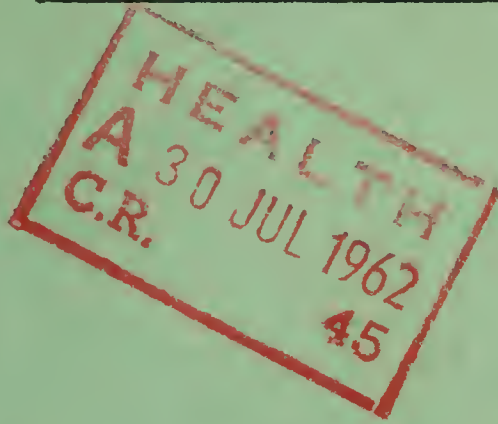


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ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1960

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1960

Councillor D. BENNETT, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor T. PARKINSON (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors R. CHEETHAM, W. DARBYSHIRE, H. FAIRHURST,
A. A. HESKETH, W. C. LOVE, G. H. NICKEAS, S. PRESTON,
J. A. SIMPKIN, J.P., Mrs. A. TABERNER, J. W. WARD.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. DARBYSHIRE (Chairman), and all members of the
Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Tel. : Wigan 82603.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

June, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of Orrell Urban District Council.

Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1960. It has been compiled, as in previous years, in the manner recommended by the Ministry of Health.

I wish to thank the members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration which they have always displayed towards me. I would also like to express my thanks to the Officials of the Council and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received through the year.

The coming of the Heinz Factory has brought the Department new incidental problems in the field of preventive public health work, although this modern establishment is a model of hygienic practice.

Liaison with a management so willing to co-operate and setting themselves the high standards demanded by modern food technology, is a most rewarding experience.

I am, Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,617
Population (Preliminary Census) 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,317
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1960)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,730
Number of Inhabited Houses :							
(a) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,682
(b) End of 1960 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,580
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	126,656
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£515 0s. 0d.

The district is now assuming all the characteristics of a residential area. Whilst this in itself is an admirable quality the implied obligations to ensure that services keep pace with the increasing demands must be faced by the Authority.

It is becoming obvious that planning for a rapidly developing district should not restrict itself to mere formal approval of areas for growth, but should be alive to the need for new or augmented services required not only in the new zones created but in the contiguous built up areas. These can be revitalised and renewed as far as new access roads, lighting, paving, drainage and augmented water supplies are concerned, but the full community needs of schools and halls, playing fields, sports and social facilities, should be incorporated. A case in point is the complete lack of swimming facilities within the county districts surrounding the County Borough of Wigan.

The two older areas of the district are in sore need of reorganisation and re-development and one is forced to the conclusion, that piecemeal pruning however convenient should give way to full scale re-building. Traffic routes could then be rationalised, adequate business and residential areas provided and the narrow choked areas replaced by broad ways and convenient shops, parking lots and acceptable building to suit our modern life.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>		<i>M.</i>		<i>F.</i>
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	...	159	...	88	...	71
		Illegitimate	...	...	6	...	5	...	1
Total					165	...	93	...	72
Still Births	...	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	}	Legitimate	...	...	3	...	1	...	2
		Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total					3	...	1	...	2
Total No. of Deaths					111	...	59	...	52

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population...	14.9
Birth rate for England and Wales	17.1
Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	12.9
Death rate for England and Wales	11.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	19.7

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1956-60.

Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality					
								Total		Neo-natal			
No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births				
ORRELL U.D.													
Year 1960	...	151	15.4	111	10.5	5	42.0	Nil	Nil	1	6.6	—	—
Year 1959	...	149	14.3	108	10.4	4	32.5	Nil	Nil	5	35.0	1	6.7
Year 1958	...	142	14.0	135	13.3	1	34.0	Nil	Nil	2	14.1	Nil	—
Year 1957	...	161	15.5	84	10.5	1	37	Nil	Nil	2	13	1	7
Year 1956	...	110	10.2	114	12.3	6	51	Nil	Nil	3	27	6	55
Avg. 5 years 1956-60		142	13.9	110.4	11.4	3.4	39.0	Nil	Nil	2.6	19.1	1.6	26.0

Adjusted Live Birth-rate (comparability factor 0.97)

Death-rate (comparability factor 1.25)

...

...

...

14.9 per 1,000

12.9 per 1,000

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1960 compared with the figures for 1959 :—

TABLE II.

						1959	1960
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	18	18
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	22	23
Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	19	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Ill Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8	13
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	108	111

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

The Curator of the National History Museum at Bolton County Borough provides expert services for the identification of insect and other pests.

Assessments of special food problems are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Colindale and frozen food matters are referred to Low Temperature Research Stations either at Cambridge or Chipping Campden. Other processed foodstuffs and packing problems are referred to the appropriate trade research bureaux.

Ambulance Services.—Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.—No action was taken under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The days of miscellaneous authorities for water supply are now numbered with the formation of the Makerfield Water Board which will, in April, 1961, take over statutory responsibility for the supply of sufficient wholesome water for a large part of the Wigan district.

Whilst the piecemeal sources sufficed in the pioneer days, when a safe water supply was a rarity and the bulk of the population depended on wells and springs of local origin, the pressure of modern society with its niceties of sanitation and demands for more and more water brought rationalisation of sources and supply to a head.

To-day factories needing millions of gallons of water a day are common, vast new housing projects, each house of which needs hundred gallons a day, are springing up, the modernisation of a older houses increases the demands and the need for the transition from parish pump methods to grouped and regional resources becomes obvious.

It is, however, only right to salute the past generation which set the pattern for pure and ample supplies of water often in the face of opposition.

The difficulties of collecting and pumping supplies to scattered areas were often monumental and the ground work of our water supply systems which the Board has now inherited is a heritage which Local Authorities have not easily acquired and do not pass down to the new hands without justifiable pride.

The last work done by the Council was the laying of the augmented main to the Far Moor area, but subsidiary pipes in that district are now obviously in need of replacement to more satisfactory capacities.

Bacteriological Samples.—Six samples were submitted for analysis and all were passed as satisfactory.

No chemical analysis was necessary and the water has been checked for plumbo-solvency and has no tendency to attack lead pipes.

Apart from electro-chemical action on metal storage tanks the supply is satisfactory.

Until the Board's Inspectors are appointed the practice of reporting bursts, leaks and overflowing ball cocks and taps will continue.

The bacteriological analysis and assessment of involved public health risks will, of course, continue as a statutory part of the Public Health Department's duties.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Overloading sewers and pressures arising from gradually increasing private estates make the sewerage problem one of some concern. The survey instigated by the Council following the Surveyor's report of the inadequacy of the sewers is well advanced. Without anticipating the recommendations we must be prepared for far reaching proposals to enable the system laid down two generations ago to cope with present day flows. Indeed, there is no reason why the Abbey Lakes pollution should not be attended as a completely separate treatment problem and this black spot wiped out.

Whilst much superficial improvement has been accomplished within our district the two basic elements of a clean and adequate water supply and a well planned sewage system are of primary concern and we cannot imagine a completely satisfactory communal life without either.

The problem is not, of course, confined to our own area for the watershed around us is notoriously polluted and brooks, streams and rivers have become foul smelling sewers.

Every effort is needed from the upland sources and at every point of pollution to wipe out the disgraceful conditions which arise in our industrial areas.

Sanitary Accommodation :

No. of Privy Middens in the district	...	...	7
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	...	...	6
„ Pail Closets	...	...	1
„ Freshwater Closets	...	...	3,868
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	2
„ Moveable Ashbins	...	...	3,442
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	...	...	3,521

Sanitary Inspections :

No. of Premises Visited	...	...	...	...	803
„ Visits	...	...	...	...	2,322
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	264
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	231
No. of Notices : (a) Informal	...	...	...	...	212
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	...	38
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	...	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,621
Sanitary Conveniences	23
Drainage	215
Accumulations	31
Keeping of Animals	11
Inns	8
Enquiries after Infectious Disease...	18
Refuse Collection	131
Refuse Disposal	82
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	22
Tents, Vans, Sheds	9
Miscellaneous visits	56
Schools	18

Schools.—Most of the playgrounds are adequately paved.

The school staff and employees in the school meals service are taking an increasing interest in hygiene. The Divisional Executive have complied with all my suggestions on points where improvements could be made and no case of infection or complaint arose from this source.

All schools have adequate washing facilities.

Tents, etc.—No formal camping is permitted within the district. Occasional transient workers station their vans with temporary permission.

Swimming Baths, etc.—There are no facilities for swimming within the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.—Observations are kept on all industrial installations.

Domestic smoke is the main source of pollution.

The implementation of the "Clean Air Act, 1956" will have little effect within our district as our problem is wind borne from the industrial areas on our flanks, but a start should be made with our own domestic problem.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses within the district.

Factories.—These are subject to inspection as occasion demands and the necessary representations made to owners or occupiers. Most establishments have completely satisfactory toilets, etc.

The new Heinz Factory sets a very high standard of accommodation.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories under Local Authorities ...	17	36	3	—
(ii) Factories not in (1) under Local Authority ...	17	48	1	—
(iii) Other Premises ...	6	9	1	—
Total ...	40	93	5	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Referred</i>		
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	4	4			
Inadequate Ventilation... ..	2	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	—			
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1			
Total ...	11	9			

Rodent Control.—Sewer : Test Baiting and Treatment.

Six monthly testing of sewers coupled with the necessary treatment of portions found to be infested keep bulk infestation down. Only one area has a record of regular infestation and this is due to the presence of numerous underground culverts (which cannot be traced) where rodents can breed. The problem is complicated by numerous streams and the River Douglas carrying prolific colonies. The problem of co-operation between contiguous authorities is very real in practice as streams and rivers remain the chief routes for spread of rodents. A great deal of routine inspection is necessary to keep the area under control.

Dwellings are treated free under the direction of the Public Health Inspector by a part time Rodent Operator.

The treatment of business farm and other premises is done on a chargeable basis and regular inspection ensures a reasonable freedom from the depredations of Rats and Mice.

The necessity to supervise all drainage work becomes obvious as infestations regularly arise from defective work of this nature.

The following work of inspection and treatment was carried out during 1960 :—

		<i>Type of Property.</i>			
		<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>		<i>Agricultural.</i>	
		<i>Dwelling houses.</i>	<i>All other.</i>		
(a)	No. of properties in district.	3,588	408	...	18
(b)	No. of properties inspected .	294	73	...	18
(c)	Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ...	403	32	...	39
(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by :				
	Rats : major ...	—	—	...	—
	minor ...	73	22	...	5
	Mice : major ...	—	—	...	—
	minor ...	14	5	...	2
(e)	No. of infested properties treated ...	73	25	...	7
(f)	Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ...	96	34	...	10
(g)	No. of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	1	—	...	—
(h)	Any other action : Farm survey undertaken and perimeter survey of Heinz Factory maintained.				

HOUSING.

(a) *Local Authority*.—Due to reasons beyond the control of local councils the building of houses for general needs has stopped and only two special classes, the aged and people living in houses requiring demolition, are catered for.

The depleted programmes in addition are beset with problems associated with planning and technical preparation so that even the special class houses have not been forthcoming. The non-erection of Council Houses has not as yet been replaced by private enterprise building as again only large concerns appear to be capable of obtaining planning permission and not everyone's taste is catered for in the types of dwellings offered. The need is for opening up of more available building land accessible to the individual person and authorities owning areas of land which could be opened up and developed privately must give consideration to this method of easing the present situation.

Again many small sites exist where useful re-development could go on, to house elderly persons in suitable dwellings.

The reverse side of the picture consists of the streets of dwellings which are in no immediate danger of clearance but which need re-conditioning and the addition of amenities. No grants have been made under the permissive Housing Acts to improve such houses and it would be advisable to consider making these grants to improve our basic stock of older houses.

The Standard Grants provisions are making some headway with owner occupiers but vast scope exists for tenanted houses to be provided with these amenities so sadly lacking for so many years.

The Rent Act, 1957.—This Act continues to fulfil the need for compulsory repair of good class houses which have tended to be neglected by their landlords. The tenants redress, whilst complicated, has been effective.

Resort to arbitration in cases where agreement has not been reached has provided surprise decisions from County Courts and until sufficient case law is laid down the varying interpretations of the measure will give rise to confusion.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.—The need to operate as fully as possible the provisions of the Act authorising Councils to lend to would-be house-owners sufficient capital to purchase smaller and older houses is one of the most beneficial assets to housing. Hundreds of would-be owners are denied the benefit of house ownership by restrictions on the operation of this measure.

For reasonably sound houses with over 15 years of life there is absolutely no real risk of loss to the Council on default.

The ideal of owner occupation with the improved living conditions which will result, will never be attained in these cases until some realistic use of the loans provisions is made.

Statutory Action.—The emphasis to-day is on clearance of derelict areas and pruning out of odd patches of slum houses. The age old remedies of piecemeal repair associated with the sub-standard house, both under the Housing and Public Health Acts, are now not so widely used.

It might even be said that the recalcitrant owner of sub-standard houses can to-day risk the demolition of his houses for their enhanced site value, rather than expend capital on houses the fabric of which is wearing out. Thus the need to serve innumerable notices is being replaced by grant aided work, Rent Act methods or by complete demolition procedure. In the last resort many landlords find the money to put in full scale reconditioning schemes to save a useful house. These efforts are encouraged where the result will be a satisfactory house, despite the rising cost.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	410
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal for the purposes	...	...	...	...	1,621
(2)		Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—					
	(a)	No. found during year	...	...	...	...	181
(3)		No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	314

2.—CLEARANCE AREAS HOUSING ACT, 1936/57, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year in Clearance Areas :—						
(a)	Unfit houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Other houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	No. of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

		No. of Houses	Persons Displaced
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during the year :—		
(a)	<i>Housing Act, 1957 :</i>		
(i)	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 7(1)) ...	9	37
(ii)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sections 16, 17 and 35, and still in force ...	7	10
(iii)	Parts of building closed (Section 18)	Nil	Nil
(b)	<i>Housing Act, 1949 :</i>		
(i)	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ...	Nil	Nil
(c)	<i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :</i>		
(i)	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2) ...	Nil	Nil
(2)	Repairs during the year :—		No. of Houses
(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ...		183
(b)	Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :		
(i)	By owners ...		12
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners ...		Nil

	<i>No. of Houses</i>
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners	4
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954).

No action under this Act was taken in the district.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates ...	15
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	3
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates ...	12
(a) in respect of some but not all defects...	9
(b) in respect to all defects	3
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	6
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	1
(6) Number of Certificates issued	9

Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7)	Application by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	... ..	5
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	... ..	Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	... ..	Nil
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority		5

7.—ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

(a)	By Local Authority	... ..	16
(b)	By other Authorities	... ..	Nil
(c)	By other bodies and persons	... ..	128

**8.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959
STANDARD GRANTS.**

Action during the year :		No. of <i>schemes</i>	No. of <i>dwellings or other buildings affected</i>
(a)	Submitted to local authority	...	35
(b)	Approved by local authority	...	34
(c)	Work completed	... ..	23

9.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Privy Middens*.—There are few middens in use within the district and the complete removal of the last of these anachronisms is practically an accomplished fact. When the last of our present slum clearance houses go there will only remain the odd isolated farm or cottage without flush sanitation.

(b) *Vehicles*.—This year saw the implementation of the policy to provide a cleanly collection service of house refuse and the Council ordered a new vehicle incorporating the latest ideas in dustless loading machines.

The principle involved, necessitated a pick-up and emptying mechanism so that the refuse is never open to the air. The house bin lids are hinged and as the machine power lifts and empties the loaded bins the dirt and hard work of scavenging is removed from the operation. We hope to speed up the transition from the present crude method of "open side" loaded vehicles to the new dustless method in stages. The first step being the provision of a vehicle and then year by year the replacement of bins with the dustless model, which will in the future help us keep the district cleaner.

(c) *Tippling*.—The old sand pit in Edge Hall Road is proving a satisfactory site for refuse disposal and the area will eventually be re-claimed for agricultural use. The acquisition of the tractor and shovel has enabled us to control the dust and general nuisances by strict covering of the refuse with sub-soil got from the pit.

(d) *Salvage*.—This year saw the inception of the bonus scheme which is quite simply geared to output. It has proved of real value to both the Council and the Staff and the incidental advantage of keeping the tip free from paper and boxes has reduced fire hazards.

We have not had the fire troubles which disrupted work and caused nuisances since we have fully salvaged paper and covered the tip face with the machine. With the increase in packaging of all kinds of retail goods the market for waste recovered is liable to be stable for the future.

The Council's decision to remove any disused household effects free of charge is resulting in a much wider use of this service and a consequent cleaning up of the dumps which occurred on spare land :—

(e) Summary of Refuse Collection.—

		1959		1960
No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied	...	216	...	178
„ Bins emptied	... ..	132,537	...	146,544
„ Loads of Refuse removed	... ..	2,354	...	2,411

Disinfestation.—The peril from the presence of flies and vermin in and about our homes and food premises is one which is now widely appreciated and control of pests is a feature of the growing public demand for higher hygiene standards. With each new insecticide or rodenticide introduced the species attacked develops a resistance and eventually does not succumb to treatment. The necessity is for regular switching of baits and poisons, great care being taken not to use such materials as will be harmful to food or the occupants of premises.

The need for prompt report of the presence of insects and rodents in food premises is vital and many traders run the unnecessary risk of prosecution by their lack of attention to the disinfestation of their premises.

The problem of the cockroach remains troublesome, and no effort is spared to treat infested homes, bakehouses and food premises where this pest is suspected.

Modern insecticides and rodenticides are cheap, easy to apply and effective.

The need for more adequate protection and proofing of buildings and fittings is widely necessary.

It is a statutory duty that all reasonable precautions shall be taken by food traders to make their premises rodent and insect proof.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1957.—The trends in the food trade are rapidly changing from the old unprotected methods to the increased use of canned, processed, pre-packed and frozen foods.

This is, of course, due mainly to two factors, the housewife no longer stands in the kitchen all day washing and cooking, indeed she is quite often employed elsewhere. Thus the demand for prepared food stems from the need to save work at home. Again there is no doubt that the newer packaged foods are themselves eye-catching and sell well and they have a great deal of value to the busy family.

There is, of course, a further advantage and that is that the safety aspect is improved. No longer are foods exposed to the miscellaneous contaminations which plagued traders and public health workers in the open food days, so that direct contamination is practically eliminated and food is far cleaner in cans and frozen packs than ever before.

The need to attend to stock rotation, the strict supervision of refrigeration and the prevention of new types of contaminating influences have become the new needs of the trade.

Far too often, staleness, and downright bad food results from careless handling methods of the new packaged and frozen foods.

Refrigeration and cabinets are themselves not self cleansing yet traders will use these devices for months without a semblance of attention. De-frosting, stock rotation and strict checks of the running temperatures are the prime needs in the frozen food trades.

The risks of damage from build up of contaminated frost is very real in all cases where it can come into contact with unpacked or lightly packed foods.

Generally the food trade premises are now in good repair and suitable for the purposes. A hard-core of unsuitable traders and employees still have not appreciated the necessity to practice food hygiene. The most important duty of all, that of cleanly personal habits is one most difficult to put over. The shopkeeper, who blows open the bag used to protect the consumers food, licks his fingers to pick up the wrapping paper, uses soiled handkerchiefs and then handles cakes or fruit and worst of all, neglects the elementary need to wash their hands as often as possible, all these can be seen in shops and food premises and such habits die hard.

Health workers need the backing of the general public who can, if they choose to, shop where the food is cleanest.

Out-door trading makes up an appreciable part of the total food sales but this convenient method of distribution has inherent disadvantages. The necessity to see that vans and stalls are covered on the three sides not in use, and vehicle cabs and roofs not used for carriage of foodstuffs is obvious.

Personal cleanliness without adequate washing facilities is difficult and the cleanliness of vehicle and equipment makes heavy demands on the operator. The checks on these itinerant vendors of foodstuffs are difficult and a certain amount of night and week-end work is essential to secure complete coverage.

Food Condemnation.—The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned during the year :—

13,245 lb. of Tomato Pulp.
 506 lb. of Apricot Pulp.
 80 lb. of Eviscerated Chicken.
 77 lb. 3 ozs. Cooked Ham.
 1—10 lb. tin of Ox Tongue.

Ice Cream.—One retail establishment was checked and four unsatisfactory samples recorded before clearing the fault. One other loose sample returned Grade II.

The stubborn case of contaminated loose ice-cream was eventually traced to contamination from frost particles dropping into a small tub from the upper sides of the freezer compartment, and the drip from the hinged cabinet lid. The case was cured when a correctly fitting inner tub was used with attention to the cabinet cover and the fitting of an inner tub lid.

Milk and Dairies.

(a) *Milk Sampling.*—The District has now been incorporated within a specified area wherein no raw milk (unless to T.T. standards) or heat treated may be sold. This is a great step forward and one under which the next generation will benefit. With the usual safeguards of regular herd testing and checks by our own public health standards the change has brought real improvement to the safety of our milk supplies.

44 samples were taken during the year with 5 failures to attain a cleanly standard.

		No. of Samples.		Satis- factory.		Unsatis- factory.	
(a) <i>Raw Milk :</i>							
(1) Tuberculosis : biological	2	...	2	...	Nil		
(2) Methylene Blue	...	5	...	5	...	Nil	
(b) <i>Pasteurised :</i>							
(1) Phosphotase (for heat treatment)	...	...	8	...	8	...	Nil
(2) Methylene Blue	...	8	...	6	...	2	

(b) *Licensing*.—The following licences were issued under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and Regulations under the Act :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dairies on the Register	...	...	4
No. of Milk Distributors on Register	...	...	44

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers' Licences issued (including supplementary licences)	12
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Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers' Licences issued (including supplementary licences)—Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	12
No. of Dealers' Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	44

Food Premises.—Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No.</i>
General Grocers and Provision Dealers	36
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	10
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	11
Bakers and/or Confectioners	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	14
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments	25
Others	14

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. Registered 31.12.60</i>	<i>No. of inspections made during the year</i>
Ice Cream—Sale and/or Storage ...	28	48
Preserved Food Premises ...	6	54
Lancs. C.C. (G.P. Act) 1938/57, Licensed Hawkers ...	11	63

Inspections.—The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :—

Bakehouses ...	37
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ...	53
Grocers' Shops ...	49
Greengrocers ...	39
Butchers' Shops ...	36
Fish Frying Premises and preserved foods ...	38
Miscellaneous ...	29
Confectioners ...	66
Dairies ...	18
Notices served ...	23

Meat.—There are no licensed slaughter houses within the District. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

Regular inspection of all butchers' shops and of the meat found in the shops has been maintained throughout the year.

Attention is paid to the condition of delivery vehicles which in some cases calls for improvement. There is no real reason why carcasses and offal should not be carried in a cool cleanly condition as rapid deterioration of meat and meat products can take place in humid weather under the present transport conditions.

Temperature checks are now made on cooked foodstuffs held for sale, including frozen as well as cooked foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54.—No animals were slaughtered within the District during the year.

10.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

Diphtheria.—No cases of Diphtheria were notified maintaining the clear record of the District over the past thirteen years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1960, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children.</i>	<i>School Children.</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) ...	131	10
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections...	14	151
Poliomyelitis : Primary ...	160	67
Re-inforcing ...	134	233
Smallpox Vaccinations : Primary ...	79	Nil
Re-vaccination	Nil	Nil

Pneumonia.—There was one case of acute primary pneumonia.

Measles.—Ten cases of this disease were notified.

Poliomyelitis.—There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Whooping Cough.—There were no cases of Whooping Cough during the year.

Cancer.—There were 18 deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Food Poisoning.—No cases were reported during the year.

Dysentery.—No cases were reported during the year.

Tuberculosis.—Six new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. One death was attributable to the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the regional Hospital Board, and Orrell cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

